

As a newly licensed Amateur Radio operator (no code technician) I have some strong opinions about the Morse code requirement of Amateur Radio. It is a relic of the past and making it a requirement for licensing makes no sense at all. It does not increase your technical abilities in any way. If Amateur Radio is to continue we must stop pretending that Morse Code is a vital communications mode for augmenting Homeland Security, Hurricane disasters, etc. They are not teaching Morse code in the military, Coast Guard, FEMA or any where else except at the ARRL.

From my own limited experience, Morse code is the domain of the more elderly members of the Amateur Radio community. There is a comment in this petition that states "As a teenager in 1958..." that seems to typify the attitude of the avid CW practitioners. The author has a right to be proud of his proficiency in 30+ WPM. But as a newcomer I never expect to be among these experts. So why does this special interest group want to cram their childhood special interest on me? Let me go my own way, there is so much to learn besides dits and dahs.

Yes, I could just stop whining and hold my nose and learn the 5 WPM. But I feel I am participating in a hazing ritual from a snobby college fraternity. The upper classmen had to endure the punishment and now so must I.

Eliminate Element 1 of the Amateur licensing requirement entirely.